



United by Old Glory

Story by Beth Reece

Photos by Paul Disney

Americans often declare their patriotism by waving star-spangled banners — on cars and buildings, on shirts and jewelry, from bridges and from doorsteps.

We don't need Flag Day to appreciate the power of Old Glory. As sorrow and disbelief blanketed the nation Sept. 11, the American flag healed us. It inspired and united us.

The hallowed flags we flew after last fall's tragedy relayed our collective love for America and our faith in a safe, free land. The more flags we unfurled, the more determined we were to protect the very liberty and justice that our Stars and Stripes stand for.

Most Americans still recall one of the day's most arresting photographs — that of three firefighters lifting a flag before the ash and rubble that was once the World Trade Center. That image is strikingly similar to the celebrated World War II photograph of six marines raising an American flag at Iwo Jima. These enduring scenes help shape our mental images of U.S. history.

With a new spotlight on our national colors — and consumers' demand for anything red, white and blue — many citizens believe that the events of Sept. 11 aroused renewed regard for the American flag, and instilled in many of us a stronger sense of patriotism. The flag is now a common sight at businesses and homes throughout the nation.

It continues to announce our determination to protect America, no matter whether we are servicemembers or civilians.

As we celebrate the historic journey of our national emblem this June 14, take some time to tidy up the flags that have been on display since last fall. If your flag is dirty, wash or dry-clean it. If you see flags that are now worn and frayed, replace them with new ones.

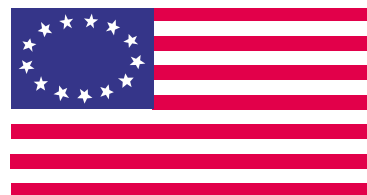
We are indebted to Old Glory for the pride it stirs. May our renewed love and respect for the flag be captured in traditions that outlast our battle against terrorism. □

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

United by Old Glory

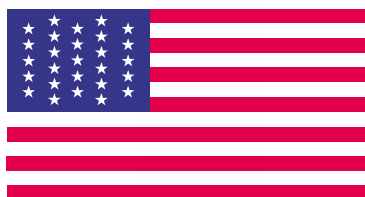
THE American flag has had many faces since its birth on June 14, 1777.

Some variations were due to Congress' indecision about whether states newly admitted to the union should be represented by stars or by stripes. Other alterations resulted from designers' interpretations of the flag. In 1934, Congress finally approved a code of etiquette to standardize the appearance and presentation of the American flag.

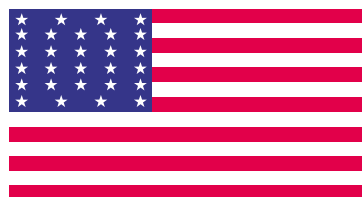


June 14, 1777 (13 stars)

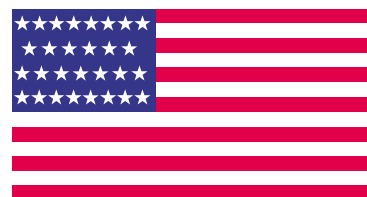
Delaware
Pennsylvania
New Jersey
Georgia
Connecticut
Massachusetts
Maryland
South Carolina
New Hampshire
Virginia
New York
North Carolina
Rhode Island



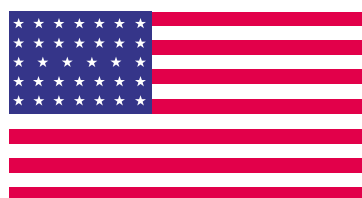
July 4, 1845 (27 stars)
Florida



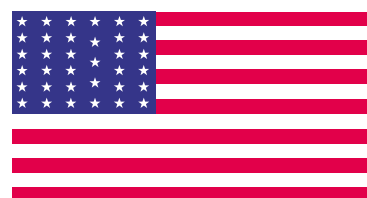
July 4, 1846 (28 stars)
Texas



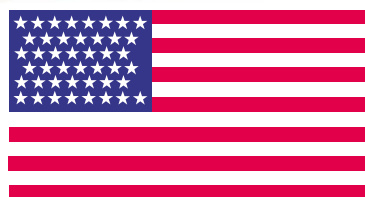
July 4, 1847 (29 stars)
Iowa



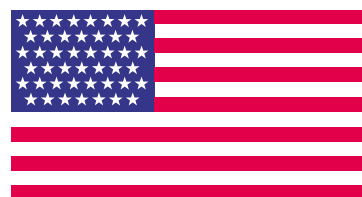
July 4, 1861 (34 stars)
Kansas



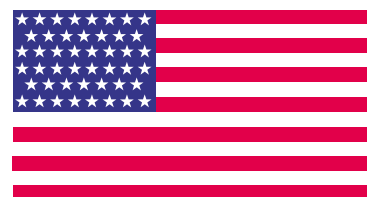
July 4, 1863 (35 stars)
West Virginia



July 4, 1891 (44 stars)
Wyoming



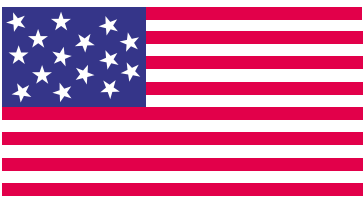
July 4, 1896 (45 stars)
Utah



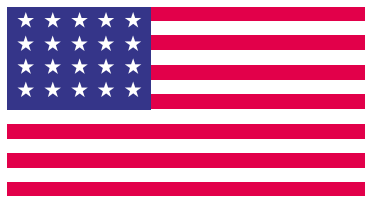
July 4, 1908 (46 stars)
Oklahoma

Soldiers
The Official U.S. Army Magazine
www.soldiersmagazine.com

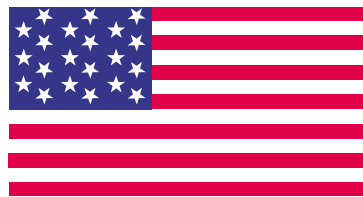
A Nation's True Colors



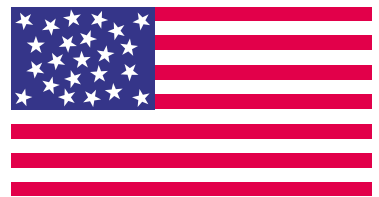
May 1, 1795 (15 stars)
Vermont
Kentucky



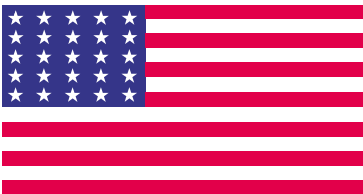
April 13, 1818 (20 stars)
Tennessee, Ohio
Louisiana, Indiana
Mississippi



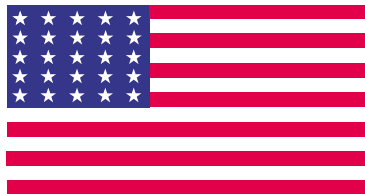
July 4, 1819 (21 stars)
Illinois



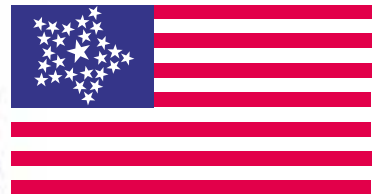
July 4, 1820 (23 stars)
Alabama
Maine



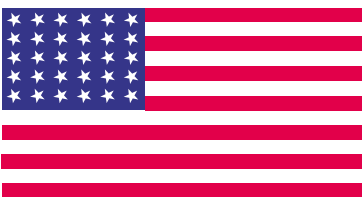
July 4, 1822 (24 stars)
Missouri



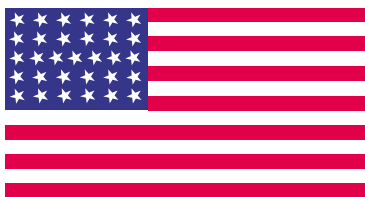
July 4, 1836 (25 stars)
Arkansas



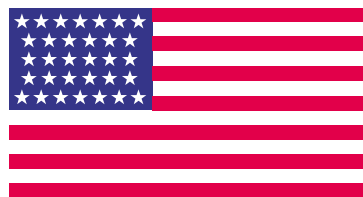
July 4, 1837 (26 stars)
Michigan



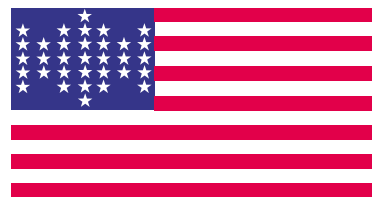
July 4, 1848 (30 stars)
Wisconsin



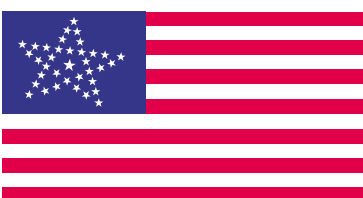
July 4, 1851 (31 stars)
California



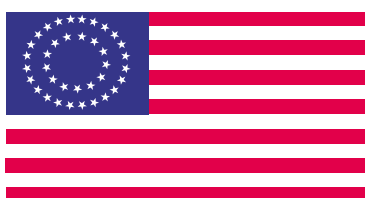
July 4, 1858 (32 stars)
Minnesota



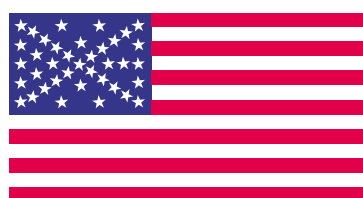
July 4, 1859 (33 stars)
Oregon



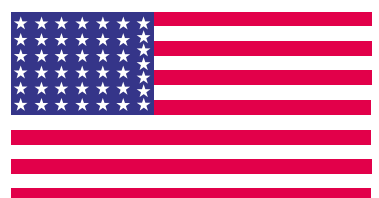
July 4, 1865 (36 stars)
Nevada



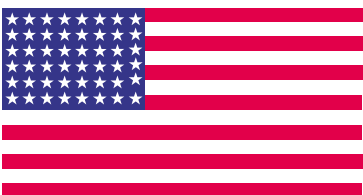
July 4, 1867 (37 stars)
Nebraska



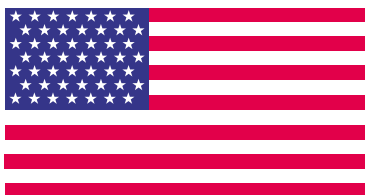
July 4, 1877 (38 stars)
Colorado



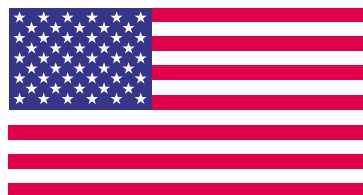
July 4, 1890 (43 stars)
North Dakota, South Dakota
Montana, Washington
Idaho



July 4, 1912 (48 stars)
New Mexico
Arizona



July 4, 1959 (49 stars)
Alaska



July 4, 1960 (50 stars)
Hawaii



United We Stand

Wearing his own BDUs and beret, Cody Weadon, 7, of Fredricksburg, Va., salutes the flag.

Star Spangled Manners

★ June 14 is Flag Day and the U.S. Army's birthday.

Displaying the Flag

★ The flag should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset, unless it is illuminated at night.

★ A flag displayed over a street should be hung vertically with the union to the north or east. If suspended over a sidewalk, the union should be farthest from the building.

★ When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

★ When displayed horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (to the observer's left).

★ When displayed with other flags, the American flag may not be smaller. It is always the first flag raised and the last lowered.

★ The flag should not touch the ground and should be protected from soil and dirt. If the flag becomes dirty, it should be washed or dry-cleaned.

★ Flags with rips and frayed edges should be removed from display and destroyed in a dignified flag-burning ceremony. Most veterans' groups and American Legion posts conduct routine flag-burning ceremonies.

★ During joint or multi-national operations, unit commanders may require U.S. soldiers to wear the full-color U.S. flag cloth replica on utility and organizational uniforms. The cloth is worn so that the star field faces forward or to the flag's own right. When worn in this manner, the flag is facing the observer's right and gives the effect of a flag flying in the breeze as the wearer moves forward.

(Laws relating to flag etiquette are detailed in the United States Code.)

Flying 24/7

Presidential proclamations and laws authorize the American flag to be flown 24 hours a day at the following locations:

★ Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, Md.

★ Flag House Square at Albemarle and Pratt Streets in Baltimore, Md.

★ U.S. Marine Corp (Iwo Jima) Memorial in Arlington, Va.

★ On the green of the town of Lexington, Massachusetts.

★ The White House and Washington Monument in Washington, D.C.

★ U.S. Customs ports of entry.

★ Grounds of the National Memorial Arch in Valley Forge State Park at Valley Forge, Pa.

Superflag

Superflag is the world's largest U.S. flag. Measuring 505 feet by 255 feet and weighing 3,000 pounds, Superflag is transported in a motor-home trailer and requires at least 500 people for setup. Superflag has been seen by millions of spectators at sporting events and national celebrations across the country. It flew twice at the Army-Navy Football Classic.